

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086329

13

ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 COA-02 COME-00 INT-08 H-02

IO-12 EB-11 CG-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06

CEQ-02 EPA-04 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 ARA-11 PRS-01 /135 R

DRAFTED BY L/ OA- BHOXMAN: CSA

5/7/73 21700

APPROVED BY S/ FW- MR. BRITTIN

COA- AMB. MCKERNAN

EUR- MR. HOPPER

COMMERCE/ NOAA- MR. TERRY

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

COMMERCE/ NOAA

----- 130088

R 072137 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW LISBON

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086329

EO 11652- GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJ: POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

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1. US OBJECTIVES FOR LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE, AND US ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTERESTS AFFECTED BY VIABILITY OF OUR NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES INDUSTRY, ARE IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY BECAUSE OF HIGH LEVEL OF FISHING EFFORTS BY FOREIGN FLEETS IN NORTHWEST ATLANTIC. ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN US ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED. CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR US TO MAKE UNILATERAL FISHERIES CLAIM AND DENOUNCE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICNAF) INCREASING, INCLUDING ADDITION OF POLITICALLY PROMINENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND WILL BE DIFFICULT RESIST UNLESS JUNE MEETING OF ICNAF IN COPENHAGEN ADOPTS MAJOR NEW MEASURES DESIGNED REDUCE PRESSURE ON FISH STOCKS OFF NEW ENGLAND COAST. EVEN IF PRESIDENT SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED PRESSURES FOR IMMEDIATE UNILATERAL FISHERIES CLAIM, ACTION BY CONGRESS WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE BARGAINING POSITION OF US ON WIDE RANGE LOS ISSUES AT LOS CONFERENCE, AND OUR ASSESSMENT IS WE WOULD BE FORCED DENOUNCE ICNAF CONVENTION AT THE LEAST.

2. IT IS NOT IN INTERESTS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO FORCE US INTO THIS SITUATION. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT FISHERIES EXPERTS IN ICNAF DO NOT APPEAR APPRECIATE SERIOUS SITUATION FACING US. WE CONSIDERED, BUT FOR TIME BEING HAVE

DEFERRED, DECISION STATE EXPLICITLY WE WILL DEFINITELY DEPOSIT NOTICE OF DENUNCIATION OF ICNAF CONVENTION IF RESULTS JUNE MEETING OF ICNAF ARE UNSATISFACTORY, IN HOPE THAT APPROACH OUTLINED THIS CABLE MAY PROVE EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, WE WISH EMPHASIZE DENUNCIATION IS LIKELY RESULT OF UNSATISFACTORY MEETING.

3. DEPT PROPOSES THAT THREE DEMARCHES BE MADE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. ONE WILL BE MADE TO FISHERIES EXPERTS (SEPTEL). ANOTHER WILL BE MADE TO PERSON IN CHARGE LOS MATTERS FOR HOST GOVERNMENTS (SEPTEL). THIRD, INDICATED IN THIS CABLE, SHOULD BE MADE BY AMBASSADOR OR DCM TO FOREIGN MINISTER OR HIGHEST APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS ALONG LINES SET OUT PARA 4. THESE APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE ICNAF BEGINS JUNE 5.

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4. APPROACH BY AMBASSADOR SHOULD TOUCH ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HIGH LEVEL OF FOREIGN FISHING EFFORT OFF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST IS CREATING SERIOUS THREAT TO SURVIVAL OF FISH STOCKS, AND TO ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF US FISHING

INDUSTRY.

B. PRESSURES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AS WELL AS FISH-ERMEN ARE INCREASING DRASTICALLY, AND ARE REFLECTED IN MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS, STATE GOVERNMENTS, AND THE PUBLIC TO MAKE A UNILATERAL CLAIM OVER FISHERIES GREATLY BEYOND 12 MILES.

C. THESE PROBLEMS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HANDLED BY REGULATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES. HOWEVER, REGULATIONS ARE FAR TOO CONSERVATIVE, AND UNLESS THIS SITUATION IS REMEDIED AT JUNE MTG, WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ICNAF CONVENTION AND THE PURSUIT OF OTHER METHODS TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

D. HOST GOVERNMENTS HAVE SERIOUS INTEREST IN HELPING RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. IT MAY INVOLVE SOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR THEM, BUT IN OUR VIEW THEY ARE OVERSHADOWED BY PROBLEMS FOR LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IF RESULT OF JUNE ICNAF MTG UNSATISFACTORY.

L. IF US IS FORCED DENOUNCE ICNAF CONVENTION, IT WILL HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON WILLINGNESS OF COASTAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER TYPES OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LIMITATIONS ON COASTAL

STATE AUTHORITY OVER FISHERIES THAT HOST GOVERNMENTS TEND SUPPORT. IN BROADER SENSE, IT WOULD BE JOLT TO GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT OCEAN PROBLEMS CAN AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED INTERNATIONALLY.

2. COASTAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH DESIRE BROAD JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES, ARE UNLIKELY MAKE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCESSIONS TO PROTECT DISTANT WATER FISHING INTERESTS THAN THEY THINK NECESSARY TO ATTRACT SOME MARITIME POWER SUPPORT. VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL US CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR UNILATERAL FISHERIES CLAIM WILL HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ASSESSMENT BY COASTAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RE NECESSITY OF REACHING AN ACCOMMODATION AT LOS CONFERENCE WITH DISTANT WATER FISHING POWERS. IN OUR VIEW, THIS REACTION WILL OCCUR LARGELY IRRESPECTIVE OF VIEWS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON UNILATERAL ACTION.

E. ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST HOST GOVERNMENTS' DELEGATIONS TO JUNE ICNAF MTG BE INSTRUCTED SUPPORT US PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO RELIEVE OUR SERIOUS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OFF NEW ENGLAND COAST. THESE

PROPOSALS WILL SOON BE CIRCULATED TO HOST GOVERNMENTS
THROUGH ICNAF CHANNELS.

5. FOR MADRID: IN TERMS GOS DISTANT WATER FISHERIES
INTERESTS, THIS DEMARCHE IS AS APPLICABLE TO GOS AS
TO OTHER HOST GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW DIFFICULTIES
BETWEEN USG AND GOS ON STRAITS ISSUE IN LOS CONFERENCE,
AND CLOSE TIES BETWEEN GOS AND SOME DEVELOPING COASTAL
STATES IN LATIN AMERICA, WE BELIEVE APPROACH SHOULD TONE
DOWN REFERENCES IN TALKING POINTS TO LOS CONFERENCE FRAME
AND OBJECTIVES OR REACTIONS OF DEVELOPING COASTAL STATES.

6. FOR OSLO, OTTAWA, AND REYKJAVIK: SINCE HOST GOVTS
CAN BE EXPECTED BE SYMPATHETIC TO US OBJECTIVES, WE SEE
NO NEED FOR HIGH LEVEL DEMARCHE, OR DEMARCHE TO LOS OFFI-
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ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971230
Subject: POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES
TAGS: PFOR, XG
To: BONN
BUCHAREST
COPENHAGEN
MADRID
MOSCOW
PARIS
ROME

SOFIA
TOKYO
WARSAW

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005